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PATENT 8/27/01  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Charles Larsen ) Group Art Unit Unknown  
Appl. No. : 09/865125 )  
Filed : May 24, 2001 ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
For : PICKET FENCE AND RAIL ) marked attachments are being deposited with  
MOUNTING SYSTEM ) the United States Postal Service as first-class  
Examiner : Unknown ) mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant  
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
20231, on  
July 6, 2001  
(Date)  
Gordon H. Olson, Reg. No. 20,319

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Sub c1 38. (New) A decorative insert for use with a picket fence and rail mounting system, comprising:

a mounting portion configured to slidably engage a slot of a rail; and  
a decorative portion configured to provide an aesthetic design.

39. (New) The insert of Claim 38, wherein

the mounting portion comprises a substantially rectangular parallelepiped having at least one groove on each of two opposite faces.

40. (New) The insert of Claim 39, wherein

the mounting portion comprises at least a pair of grooves on each of two opposite faces.

41. (New) The insert of Claim 38, wherein

the decorative portion comprises a ring.